EXCKARD COMPANY HEWLETT Property Administration P.O. Box 272400 Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400

PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

200208831-1

Inventor(s):

Daryl E. Anderson et al

Application No.: 10/613842

Filing Date:

Jul 03, 2003

Confirmation No.: 6766

Examiner: Michael G Bogart

Group Art Unit:

3761

Title: OPHTHALMIC APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR ADMINISTERING AGENTS TO THE EYE

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner For Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR RESPONSE/AMENDMENT

Response/Amendment New fee as calculated below No additional fee							Petition to extend time to resp Supplemental Declaration					
Other	Respons	se to Restriction				TUANA	CMA		ITITY	Fee	÷ 	
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INDEP. CLAIMS			MINUS	3			=	0	x	\$200	\$	0
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deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date of Deposit: 06/05/2006

Typed Name:

Signature:

Donald J. Coulman

Daryl E. Anderson et al

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

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Date:

06/05/2006

Telephone: 541 715 1694

Rev 10/05 (TransAmd)



HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY Legal Department, IPA Section, ms: 35 P O BOX 272400 3404 East Harmony Road Fort Collins, CO 80528-9599

Attorney Docket No: 200208831-1 Appl. No. 10/613,842

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Daryl Anderson et al. **Examiner: Michael Bogart**

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AGENTS TO THE EYE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS PO Box 1450 **Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to Examiner's Office Communication dated May 04, 2006 Applicants respond as follows:

Examiner has identified three distinct inventions:

I. Claims 1-32 drawn to an ophthalmic apparatus, classified in class 604, subclass 300;

II. Claims 33-41 drawn to a method of administering liquid to an eye, classified in class 604, subclass 290; and

III Claim 42, drawn to a system for administering a fluid to an eye, classified in the class 604, subclass 294.

Applicants affirm that the above three groups identified by the Examiner are patentably distinct. However, Applicants believe that the restriction requirement is improper and traverse this restriction requirement. Examiner's restriction requirement has not established that an undue burden would be required if the restriction requirement either was not issued or if issued with fewer groups. More particularly, MPEP §803 states:

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If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

In the present application, no undue burden has been established if each of the claims were examined together. In particular Examiner has neither indicated nor has given any arguments as to why prosecution of claims to Group I and III, or claims to Group II and III presents any serious burden as required by MPEP §803. Applicants note that all three inventions are within the same class. Applicants assert that to search several subclasses does not rise to the level of a serious burden.

The present restriction requirement not only improperly shifts the Examiner's burden to the Applicants, but also subjects the Applicants to the added financial burden of prosecuting different claims in an unreasonable number of separate proceedings.

Applicants respectfully request that Examiner reconsider the current restriction and withdraw this restriction requirement.

Thus, Applicants hereby provisionally elect with traverse Group I covering claims 1-32 classified in class 604. Applicants assume for purposes of this response that Examiner has made a complete requirement for restriction in accordance with MPEP §§815 and 817. If Examiner has not made a complete requirement then Applicants respectfully request that Examiner withdraw this restriction requirement and provide a complete restriction requirement so that Applicants can properly assess Examiner's assertions.

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where Applicant elects claims drawn to the product, and the product claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claims will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP §821.04. Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, which ever is earlier.

PATENT APPLICATION

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Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully request that a copy of the 1449 Form be returned with the next official communication listing all references that were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 03, 2003 and marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner.

Hewlett-Packard Company 1000 NE Circle Blvd. m/s 422B Corvallis, OR 97330 (541) 715-1694 Respectfully submitted, Daryl Anderson et al.

Donald J. Coulman

Reg. No. 50,406 Attorney for Applicant

Date: 5- June-06